

Claim 1 recites a discharge bulb that comprises “an arc tube ...[that comprises] a ceramic, straight, and cylindrical light emitting tube having sealed end portions to form an enclosed space therein...[and] a strip-shaped first light blocking portion disposed at a first portion of said light emitting tube that corresponds to at least a rear one of the sealed end portions of said light emitting tube ...” (emphasis added.)

The Examiner contends that Tokuichi discloses the claimed features. Specifically, the Examiner contends that discharge tube 1 in Fig. 1 of Tokuichi corresponds to the claimed arc tube and that seal 6, which includes element 10, corresponds to the claimed strip-shaped first light blocking portion. (Office Action at pages 2 and 3.)

Applicants submit that claim 1 does not merely recite an arc tube, but an “arc tube [comprising a] cylindrical light emitting tube having sealed end portions to form an enclosed space therein.” For the arc tube of Tokuichi to provide an enclosed space with sealed ends as set forth in claim 1, the discharge tube 1 must be attached to conductor 7 via seal 6, which includes element 10. (See Fig. 1.) Accordingly, to the extent that discharge tube 1 may correspond to the claimed arc tube, seal 6 and conductor 7 must also be included with the discharge tube 1 for any correspondence to be valid.

Claim 1 also recites that the discharge bulb comprises a second element. Specifically, claim 1 recites a strip-shaped first light blocking portion, which is a separate element from the claimed arc tube. The Examiner contends that seal 6, which includes element 10, corresponds to the claimed strip-shaped first light blocking portion.

Applicants submit that the use of the same element in a reference, i.e., seal 6 (10), to contend that two different claim elements are disclosed is improper and constitutes a clear error in the Examiner's analysis.

The fact that seal 6 of Tokuichi may block light is not relevant to the issue at hand. The claim does not recite that the sealed end portion blocks light. Rather, the claim recites a strip-shaped first light blocking portion as the element that blocks light, and the strip-shaped first light blocking portion is a separate claimed element from the arc tube comprising a light emitting tube having sealed end portions.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that Tokuichi does not disclose or suggest both claimed elements of the discharge bulb, i.e., Tokuichi does not disclose both the claimed arc tube comprising a light emitting tube having the sealed end portions and the claimed strip-shaped first light blocking portion, as set forth in claim 1.

Because claim 8 recites features similar to those given above with respect to claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 8 is patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1.

In addition, claim 8 recites "an ultraviolet-ray blocking glass shroud surrounding said light emitting tube..." (emphasis added.) The Examiner contends that seal 6, which is made of molybdenum, will block UV light. (Office Action at page 3.)

Tokuichi discloses that seal 6 surrounds conductor 7. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Tokuichi that conductor 10 emits light. To the extent that Tokuichi may disclose a

light emitting tube, it is cylinder object 2. However, it is clear from Fig. 1 of Tokuichi that seal 6 does not surround cylinder object 2. Rather, it is cylinder object 2 that surrounds the seal 6.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Tokuichi does not disclose or suggest the claimed ultraviolet-ray blocking glass shroud that surrounds the light emitting tube, as set forth in claim 8.

Claim 15 recites a discharge bulb that comprises “an arc tube ...[that comprises] a ceramic, straight, and cylindrical light emitting tube having sealed end portions to form an enclosed space therein ...[and] means for positioning a hot zone of a luminous distribution at a cutoff line of said luminous distribution, and substantially reducing a glare light output.”

As best understood, the Examiner is contending that the discharge tube 1 in Fig. 1 of Tokuichi corresponds to the claimed arc tube and that seal 6, which includes element 10, corresponds to the claimed means for positioning a hot zone of a luminous distribution at a cutoff line of the luminous distribution and substantially reducing a glare light output. (Office Action at pages 2 and 3.)

Applicants submit that, analogous to claim 1, the Examiner is using seal 6 to contend that two different claim elements are disclosed, i.e., the claimed arc tube comprising a light emitting tube having sealed end portions and the claimed means for positioning a hot zone of a luminous distribution at a cutoff line of the luminous distribution and substantially reducing a glare light output. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 15 is patentable for at least reasons analogous to those given above with respect to claim 1.

In addition, Applicants submit that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Tokuichi that seal 6 can even act as a means to position the hot zone of a luminous distribution at a cutoff line of the luminous distribution or substantially reduce a glare light output. Accordingly, a §102 rejection of this claim is clearly improper.

Further, the present Specification makes clear that bulbs with features similar those disclosed in Tokuichi do not have a means for positioning a hot zone of a luminous distribution at a cutoff line of the luminous distribution or substantially reduce a glare light output. (See Related Art Section pages 2 and 3.) Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Examiner must provide evidence in the prior art that the claimed means exists in the bulb of Tokuichi or withdraw the rejection.

Applicants submit that claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-20 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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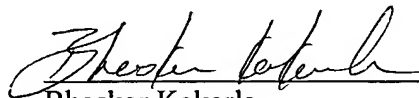
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